

TOWN OF CHESTER  
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD

February 1, 2017  
Minutes

PRESENT: John DeBenedetti; Ben Whalen; Dan Cote; Heather Chase; David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Lillian Willis; David Willis; Randy Miles; Gail Stewart; Jerry Stewart; Shawn Cunningham; William Lindsay; Brandy Todt; Prescott Warren; Joanne Warren; Laura Martinez; Julian Martinez; Hannah Monier; Russell Monier; Carla Westine; Philip Perlah; Amy Mosher; Cathy Hasbrouck; Barbara Spaulding; Jan Moot; Mike O'Neil; Melody Reed

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. by John DeBenedetti.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

January 4, 2017:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2017 Water & Sewer Commissioner's meeting. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed.

January 18, 2017:

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2017 Water & Sewer Commissioner's meeting. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed.

January 18, 2017:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2017 Special Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed.

January 19, 2017:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2017 Special Selectboard meeting as amended. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed.

Section 3, clarify that it would be 3 minutes per person, per topic.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Barre Pinske questioned the Selectboard with regard to the article on the Town Warning putting forth the fire truck. John DeBenedetti stated that the last fire truck was paid for over 3 payments of about \$80,000 each. In the past there was \$20,000 per year put into an account that was used to purchase emergency vehicles. Barre Pinske stated that he

wants to make sure that the Selectboard is not skirting their obligations of making a decision to the citizens. David Pisha explained the way the capital and bond plans work. Julie Hance explained that when the State's bond program is used, the voters are required to approve.

Barre Pinske stated that John DeBenedetti is not running again and wanted to acknowledge his years of service.

Frank Bidwell stated that the fire truck is in need of replacement. Ben Whalen stated that the fire trucks last 20 years verses town trucks which are 5.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Steering Committee: David Pisha stated that the next meeting of the Steering Committee is 10:00 a.m., February 14 at the Fullerton Inn.

Water Project: David Pisha stated that the town is waiting for a response from ACT 250 with regard to the request to amend the permit. David Pisha explained that Jim Goss was hired to help the town with the remainder of the ACT 250 process. Marilyn Mahusky questioned how much Jim Goss charges per hour. David Pisha stated that he charges \$290.00 per hour. Jim Goss has not spent too many hours to date. A cost estimate will be laid out depending on what services are needed next.

Infrastructure Needs: David Pisha provided the Selectboard with the top 5 infrastructure needs of the town as requested by Peter Welch.

Yosemite: David Pisha stated that Ron Patch will be presenting the Quit Claim Deed to the Historical Society Board. He does not anticipate any issues.

4. CHESTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION:

Lillian Willis stated that she is here representing the new Chester Historic Preservation Committee which has recently formed. She explained the history of the committee with their work on the Hearse House. She stated that the ideas of the new committee were formed from discussions during the Master Plan process.

Lillian Willis stated that this committee will take a look at the historic town properties to see if there are areas where there can be improvements and suggestions for work to be done each year and provide guidance in future projects. She stated that they are seeking the opinion of the Selectboard with regard to how this relationship can work. Both Dan Cote and Heather Chase stated that they are very appreciative of the efforts that are being put forth. Ben Whalen stated the individuals on the committee represent a good diversity of the community.

Dan Cote stated that there is a Youtube video of the Heart and Soul presentation on the [https://youtu.be/vxe6jml\\_ns4](https://youtu.be/vxe6jml_ns4). It is also available on the Preservation Trust of Vermont website.

5. REVIEW AND SIGN INTERVIEW PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENTS:

John DeBenedetti stated that the Board has a copy of a Public Office Appointment Procedure.

Dan Cote stated that an interview process should be open and transparent. He stated that he is not in favor of Executive Session interviews. The other interview applicants can wait outside or downstairs. Heather Chase stated that she has received numerous calls by individuals stating that they should be done in open session. She stated that her priority is that there be consistency. Heather Chase stated that she would like to see these positions advertised and to add language to the procedure indicating this. She also stated that she would like to have encumbants interviewed as well. John DeBenedetti stated that he would like to make sure that it is okay to ask people to leave the public meeting.

Heather Chase questioned the process of appointing a zoning administrator. David Pisha clarified that the Planning Commission nominates the zoning administrator to the Selectboard for approval. Heather Chase stated that she would like to understand the process that the Planning Commission will be using before she is comfortable with appointments.

Ben Whalen questioned if there is a question bank that should be established. Jim Carroll had indicated that there should be a list of questions that are common to all applicants.

The Board agreed that the deliberations of the interviews should be done in executive session. The Board agreed that they do not need to meet in executive session to formulate their questions. Frank Bidwell questioned if the public can argue the appointment of a candidate. Frank Bidwell questioned if there will be criteria used for applicants and if there will be job descriptions.

William Lindsay stated that he is in favor of an open session interview process. He stated that he feels that the Board needs to decide on what questions to ask candidates. He urged the Board to develop good questions for its applicants.

6. LIQUOR LICENSES:

The Selectboard approved and signed a First Class Liquor License for the American Legion.

7. OUTSIDE CONSUMPTION PERMIT:

The Selectboard approved and signed an Outside Consumption Permit for the American Legion.

The Selectboard approved and signed an Outside Consumption Permit for MacLaomainns.

8. ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE:

The Selectboard approved and signed the Entertainment Permit for the Chester American Legion. The entertainment requested is for DJs and bands for Fridays and Saturdays. Phil Perlah stated that he is concerned about the amplified music played outside of the building.

9. SIGN BOND PAPERWORK:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to adopt the Resolution Certificate, Declaration of Official Intent and Ballot for the Fire Pumper Truck in the amount of \$500,000. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed. Ben Whalen recused himself.

A motion was made by Dan Cote to adopt the Resolution Certificate, Declaration of Official Intent and Ballot for the culvert repair projects in the amount of \$235,000. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to adopt the Resolution Certificate, Declaration of Official Intent and Ballot for various capital equipment for various town departments in the amount of \$185,000. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed.

Kelly Arrison questioned if competitive bidding would be used for the ramp. Julie Hance stated that this is a budget figure only. Bidding would be used when we go to construct.

10. NEW BUSINESS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

The Selectboard agreed that the interview process policy should be on the agenda.

Ben Whalen requested that information be provided regarding the new police canine.

11. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to adjourn. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Julie Hance  
Secretary of the Select Board

Heather Chase  
Clerk of the Select Board